

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
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Utah Population Estimates Committee

MINUTES
November 24, 1999
1:30-4:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Present:

Natalie Gochnour, Chair
Mike Toney, Utah State University
Patty Bowles, Utah Office of Education
Ross Reeve, GOPB
Ron Durtschi, Mountain Fuel
Ken Jensen, Dept. of Workforce Services
Barry Nangle, Utah Dept. of Health
Tom Williams, Utah Tax Commission
Jim Wood, Bureau of Econ. & Bus. Res.

Staff:

Peter Donner, GOPB
Pam Perlich, GOPB
Lance Rovig, GOPB
Jamie Jensen, GOPB
Lisa Hillman, GOPB
Robert Spendlove, GOPB

Absent:

Walter Busse, LDS Church
Brad Barber, GOPB
Jim Robson, Utah Foundation
Courtney White, Utah Board of Regents

Welcome and Introductions - Natalie Gochnour, Committee Chair

I. Approval of November 10, 1998 Minutes

A motion was made by Ken Jensen to *approve the November 10, 1998 minutes*. The motion was seconded by Barry Nangle. The motion passed.

II. UPEC History/Yun Kim Proclamation

Natalie Gochnour

AThe Utah Experience,@a history of UPEC, written by Natalie Gochnour, was distributed to the committee. This paper was written as part of the official proceedings of the Yun Kim Symposium on Population and Development held at Utah State University on July 23, 1999. Yun Kim served on the Utah Population Estimates Committee for 30 years. Upon his retirement, Yun was awarded a declaration of commendation and gratitude from Governor Leavitt.

III. Census Bureau Update

A. Census 2000

The 2000 Census will bring approximately 3,000 new temporary jobs to Utah. Lisa announced that Census offices will be recruiting 15,000 people in the next year, and will hire 3,000 of those people in temporary positions for Census 2000.

B. Count Review

The Census Bureau has invited members from all 50 states to help assure the quality of the Census. Two staff-members from GOPB will have the opportunity to go on-site and review counts.

C. Release Schedule

A production schedule of the Bureau of the Census estimates was distributed to the committee. The estimate that pertains most to UPEC is the 1999 State Population Estimates which will be released late December 1999.

D. Challenges

There have been 22 challenges to the 1998 population estimates.

As of November 17, 1999, the Census Bureau had accepted challenges for four Utah cities. These cities include Brian Head, Hyrum, Santaquin, and West Valley City.

Decisions have not been received on all population estimate challenges that are currently being processed.

IV. Exploratory Work

A. Building Permits

Robert Spendlove, GOPB, reported that Utah is one of the states that most frequently challenges Bureau of the Census estimates. Fortunately, Utah has a local resource of building permit data from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). GOPB works closely with BEBR. Robert put together a database of building permit data from 1990 to 1998 by city and county. This was handed out to the committee and

will be used to improve the data input used by the Bureau of the Census.

B. Utah Housing Division of Motor Vehicles Driver's License Data

Peter Donner announced that GOPB has finally been able to get Driver's License data from the Driver License Division. Peter said that the in and out migration driver's license data is not consistent with the California driver's license data and appears to be of limited use currently. GOPB will continue to collect and analyze the data in hopes of future applications.

C. Housing Unit Method of Population Estimates

The building permit data can now be used by UPEC as another method of developing population estimates. The housing unit method of population estimates reveals how many permits were distributed in each county and in the state in a calendar year. GOPB will continue to work with this data and make recommendations to the Committee on how to proceed.

V. UCA References

Natalie distributed a memo that discussed population references in the Utah State Code. Technical corrections to the current statute (UCA 10-2-302) were recommended by Natalie in the memo. These recommendations were made to add clarity to the code without changing the meaning of the statute. The suggestions were provided to Legislative Research and General Council.

VI. Sub-County Estimates

A. Holladay-Cottonwood

An estimate for Holladay-Cottonwood must be prepared by Jan. 15th.

B. Committee Protocol

Natalie discussed and distributed AConventions for Producing Sub-County Population Estimates/Utah Population Estimates Committee.@ The Committee agreed to follow the conventions in preparing sub-county population estimates.

VII. Consideration and Approval of 1999 State and County Estimates

Discussion ensued about whether to revise numbers from the previous year, on a yearly basis.

Ken Jensen made a motion to: *Always update estimates with the revised data and note the revision on all releases.*

Ross Reeve seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Committee looked at school enrollment, LDS membership, and IRS tax exemptions for each county and for the state. A handout of this information, as well as a computer presentation was provided by the staff. A small discussion of the analysis of outliers took place. An outlier is displayed if the method is more than 2% different than the average of the other two methods. The Committee reviewed nonagricultural jobs, building permit data, and utility data in counties where a significant divergence appeared among methods. Estimates were agreed upon by committee members.

A motion was made by Mike Toney to:

Adopt the proposed 1999 population estimates for each county in Utah and for the state, providing that the Bureau of the Census estimates (to be released later in the month) don't alter Committee opinion.

The motion was seconded by Ken Jensen. The motion carried.

After receiving the Bureau of the Census estimates, two minor refinements were made:

1. Inclusion of BIA data for San Juan County.
2. Three methods will be used for Beaver County.

VIII. Other Business

The Utah Population Estimates Committee can be found on the web at:
www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/demographics/popest.htm.

The meeting was adjourned.